Australian Society for Limnology Inc.

NEWSLETTER

ASL Newsletter Volume 47 # 3/4
September/December 2009

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ASL Australian Society for Limnology

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR LIMNOLOGY INC.

The Australian Society for Limnology Inc. (ASL) is an Australian based scientific society whose focus is the study and management of inland waters. The ASL was established in 1961, and has a current membership of over 650 researchers, managers, engineers, teachers and tertiary level students from all states and territories. Members have a strong professional interest in inland aquatic issues, including the maintenance of biodiversity, the maintenance and/or restoration of water quality, and the wise use of aquatic resources. The Society also has a strong interest in fostering the scientific and intellectual development of tertiary students.

The Society includes members working in government agencies, tertiary institutions and many industries related to aquatic resources. Through their daily activities, members have contact with local communities and are in a sound position to interpret and advise on inland water issues. The Society has a substantial knowledge base, and has assumed a responsibility to ensure that this is available to those who manage inland waters.

Accordingly, the charter of the ASL is to further our understanding of Australia's inland waters and to promote their wise use and sustainable management. In this manner we will contribute to the continued existence of this valued resource and the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of life for all Australians. The ASL regularly produces a newsletter with notes on limnological activities, articles of interest, book reviews and announcements of upcoming events likely to be of interest to Members.

ASL Home Page
www.asl.org.au

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EDITOR'S NOTE

It has become traditional for me to begin these notes with an apology. Again I am forced to do so. My apologies for the lack of a September issue range from ongoing ill-health, to a computer hard drive failure, through to a trip to Borneo. I can only really expect sympathy for the first two!

Looking back over this last half of the year we have seen a very positive and active ASL Congress in Alice Springs (see details inside). The theme "*water in a dry land: sustaining arid zone rivers and wetlands*" brought together scientists and managers from across Australia and beyond. I can only add my thanks to those already expressed for the hard work of the organizing committee which produced an interesting program, in a wonderful location.

Please note the information on membership and dues later on in the newsletter it is great to see our Society growing again. For all existing members, let's be nice to Sabine and get our dues in order.

The deadline for submissions to the next issue is 15th March 2010.

Newsletter Editor: Dr Ross Thompson

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UPCOMING CONFERENCES

2010 Summer Meeting
Joint Meeting with ASLO & NABS
June 6-11, 2010 · Santa Fe, New Mexico USA
AQUATIC SCIENCES: GLOBAL CHANGES
FROM THE CENTER TO THE EDGE

Joint Meeting with ASLO & NABS
June 6-11, 2010 · Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA

Sponsored by the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography and the North American Benthological Society.

Abstract Submission Open Until 12 February 2010

Abstract submission for the ASLO/NABS 2010 Summer Meeting is now open. Please read the abstract guide before submitting. Deadline for all abstracts is 12 February 2010.

Call for Papers Released

The ASLO/NABS 2010 Summer Meeting Call for Papers (PDF, 1.1m) is available in the files section for download. The abstract submission system will be on-line shortly. Also, the meeting web site will be undergoing a significant upgrade so check back often!

Keynote & Plenary Speakers Announced

Keynote and plenary speakers for the meeting have been announced on the Plenary Lectures page. A community outreach session featuring Maude Barlow is also planned.

Program & Theme

The theme of the meeting, Aquatic Sciences: Global Changes from the Center to the Edge, will pull all of our aquatic sciences together and build strong synergy and collaboration between societies and scientists.

The meeting will run the full week. The opening session will take place on Sunday evening, June 6. This session will include a welcome by both society presidents and will be highlighted by a keynote speaker. A social/reception will follow. Friday, June 11, is a full day as well, with a plenary session and presentation of society awards followed by concurrent sessions beginning in the morning and running through the end of the afternoon.

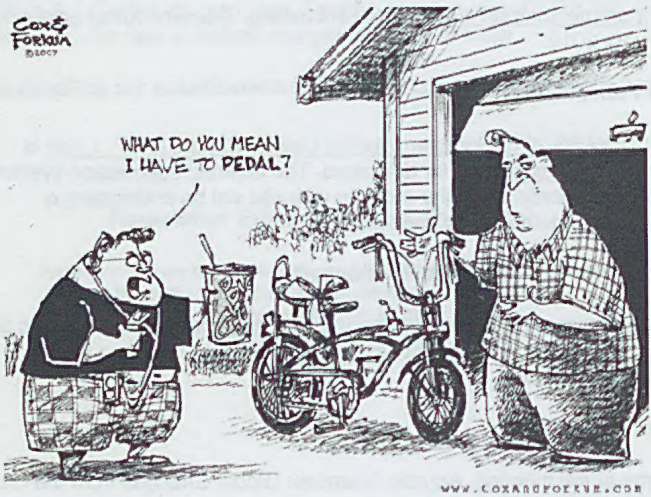
2010 is the 400th year commemoration of Santa Fe, so there will be lots of great activities going on in the city.

For More Information

For more information on the 2010 ASLO/NABS Summer Meeting Meeting, address all correspondence and questions regarding registration, conference logistics, and hotel accommodations to:

Helen Schneider Lemay
ASLO Business Office
5400 Bosque Boulevard, Suite 680
Waco, Texas 76710-4446
business@aslo.org E-mail
800-929-ASLO Voice: within the U.S., Canada, and the Caribbean
254-399-9635

ASL STUDENT MEMBERS: Note the availability of the Christy Fellows Endowment to support attendance at this meeting (see below).



GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christy Fellows Endowment Fund

This endowment fund, created in memory of Christy Fellows, provides funding for an Australian student to attend the North American Benthological Society meeting each year.

Click here for more details

Peter Cullen Postgraduate Scholarship

The NSW Government has developed a postgraduate scholarship in honour of the late Professor Peter Cullen AO FTSE.
The program is jointly funded by various New South Wales Government Water Agencies, including the Department of Water and Energy, Sydney Catchment Authority, State Water, Hunter Water and Sydney Water.

The aim of the scholarship is to:
* Improve our understanding of how rivers, groundwater, wetlands and estuaries function and respond to enhanced management
* Improve the linkages between water science and water management in NSW
* Provide research opportunities for water specialists in NSW.

Funds available:
A three year scholarship of up to $20,000 p.a. will be awarded each of the years 2009-2011.
Funds totalling $60,000 will be available to the successful student over a three year period, but with a sufficient prior written request the allocated funds could be extended to a fourth year.

The scholarship may form part of a stipend and/or support student research. The scholarship can be used to pay for equipment, field expenses, sample processing etc.

For further information see
http://www.dwe.nsw.gov.au/about/scholarship_general_information.shtml

BUSSELTON DISCUSSION GROUP

Next meeting: Wednesday January 27, 9.30am at The Equinox Cafe, Busselton.

ASL BUSINESS

ASL EXECUTIVE TELECONFERENCE, 5 MAY 2009

Present: D.Baldwin, S.Bunn, D.Ryder, J.O'Connor, P.Laceby, M.Reid, R.Marchant, J.Brim-Box

Apologies: B.Zampatti, S.Schreiber, A.Brooks, B.Downes

1. Congress in Alice Springs: J.Brim-Box (local organiser) reported that Simon Monk from ASN had visited Alice Springs in April and discussions were held about the venue, field trips and student sessions. A phone meeting with ASN is due to be held next Mon (May 11) which will report on the latest developments. At present organisation for the conference seems to be on track.

2. Christy Fellows Endowment Fund: NABS has set up an endowment fund as a memorial to Christy. Details about the fund will be sent to Ross Thompson for inclusion in the next ASL newsletter (and may be posted on the ASL website). Various members have suggested that the lecture given by the recipient of the Early Career Award be named the Christy Fellows lecture. This will be confirmed at the next teleconference.

3. List of ASL experts: this has been published regularly in the ASL newsletter. Addresses and other details need updating. R.Marchant will send the list to D.Baldwin who will ask whether those on the list wish to remain. The list has been requested by FASTS. Those on the list can speak on their own behalf, if contacted by the media, but not on behalf of the ASL; this is done by the president.

4. Updates to the ASL website: ASN has started to do this but more editing is needed. A report should be possible at the next meeting.

5. Future congresses: the congress in 2011 will be a joint one with the NZ Freshwater Sciences Society. It is planned to hold this in Brisbane and it may be possible to link it with the River Symposium. D.Baldwin will see Jane Roberts within the next month and will ask what progress has been made with the 2010 congress which she proposed for the Snowy Mountains region.

Next teleconference: Tuesday 4 August (D.Baldwin will confirm this by email).

ASL EXECUTIVE TELECONFERENCE, 26 AUG 2009

Present: D.Baldwin, B.Downes, D.Ryder, A.Brooks, J.Davis, P.Laceby, F.Sheldon, S. Schreiber, R.Marchant

Apologies: S.Bunn, J.O'Connor

1. Alice Springs Congress: J.Davis reported that the latest Congress programme and book of abstracts should be printed within the next week or so. Currently 179 are registered for the Congress. ASN have done a great job organising the meeting and raising $40,000 in sponsorship. Some potential guest speakers were unable to attend the meeting. At this stage the executive felt that it was up to the local committee to choose someone to open the Congress.

2. Student mixer: P.Laceby has been organising this with ASN and others. D.Baldwin suggested that some senior ASL members should attend. He volunteered as did D.Ryder, B.Downes, R.Marchant and F.Sheldon. D.Baldwin would email A.Boulton and M.Brock inviting them to attend.

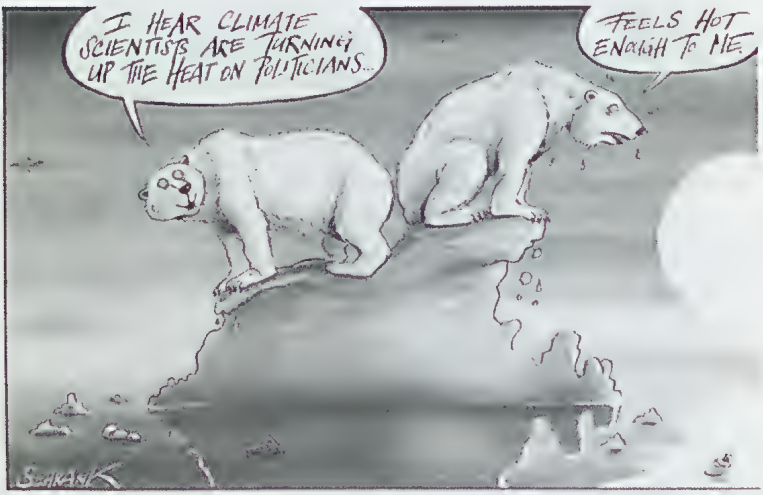
3. Student travel awards: R.Marchant reported that he had received 11 applications so far. Closing date for applications is Mon 31 Aug. It was suggested that $500 be given to each student. This could be afforded, according to S.Schreiber, as it was less than the interest the ASL has earned on its bank accounts in the last year. In fact the ASL could afford to give 15 awards of this amount based on interest received. If more than 15 applications are received then the figure will have to be revised.

4. Christy Fellows lecture: D.Baldwin asked F.Sheldon if she would introduce this lecture at the Congress. F.Sheldon agreed.

5. Registration fee: B.Downes noted that there was not much difference between the cost of registering for the Alice Springs Congress as an ASL member and as a non-member. She suggested that if a sufficiently large differential was not maintained then people might not bother becoming ASL members. The executive agreed this was likely. The lack of difference this year happened by accident. In the future it will be necessary to keep in mind the registration fees that other societies set, e.g. AMSA, NZ Society of Freshwater Sciences, Ecological Society of Australia, before we set our own and the necessity of increasing the price for non-members by at least an amount equal to the annual ASL subscription.

6. Judging of student prizes: D.Baldwin and D.Ryder will organise this aspect of the Congress. S.Schreiber suggested the following amounts as prizes: $500 for the best talk by a PhD student; $350 for the best talk by an Honours student; $300 for the best poster. These amounts were agreed to by the executive.

7. Publishing permits: Deakin University had emailed D.Baldwin and R.Marchant for permission to include abstracts published at previous ASL Congresses on an online research archive. The executive agreed to this and asked R.Marchant to reply giving permission.



CONFERENCE REPORTS:

48th ASL CONGRESS

Alice Springs Convention Centre
28 September – 2nd October 2009
Water in a dry land: sustaining arid zone rivers and wetlands.

This 48th Congress of the Australian Society of Limnology was held in the dry centre of Australia, at Alice Springs. Preceded and followed by some amazing field trip opportunities, the conference represents over a decade of endeavour by **Prof Jenny Davis** and others to bring the ASL Congress to Alice.

A unique component of the congress was the strong engagement with the First Peoples of Australia. Large contingents came from a number of Aboriginal groups, and their attendance drove many interesting dialogues, in part based around a number of special sessions. For those of us fortunate enough to go out onto the traditional lands of these groups, it was a unique opportunity to understand an ancient association with *water in a dry land.*

The standard of science was as ever exceptional, with students leading the way, including a small but very able contingent of Honours and third year students. An oral presentation by **Bruce Murray**, a third year student, was highly commended. The prize for best talk by an Honours student was awarded to **Stephanie Suter. Sam Walker** was highly commended for her talk. The poster prize was awarded to **Joanne O'Connor**. The prize for best talk by a PhD student was awarded to **Janice Williams. Katherine Cheshire** was highly commended for her presentation and **Susie Ho, Dae Huei Kim, Evan Harrison** and **Peter Berney** received special mentions for their talks. The Marine and Freshwater Research Prize (presented by Andrew Boulton, editor of MFR) was awarded to **Jane Catford** for her talk.

The ASL Medal was awarded to **Dr Terry Hillman**, and the Early Career Excellence Award to **Dr Nick Bond** (see citations in the AGM Minutes below).

We can only look forward to next years congress at Thredbo.

For a copy of the program go to http://www.asl.org.au

Ross Thompson

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AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR LIMNOLOGY, MINUTES FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

30 SEPT 2009,

ALICE SPRINGS NT

(p = proposed, s = seconded)

1. Adoption of agenda: carried (p = R.Marchant, s = J.Davis)

2. Apologies: S.Bunn, S.Hardie, F.Burns, I.Campbell, M.Hart.

3. Acceptance of minutes of last AGM: carried (p = R.Thompson, s = J.Davis)

4. Matters arising from minutes: none

5. President's report:
D.Baldwin, the president, first thanked the local committee for their planning of the congress and organising the field trips. This committee consisted of: Jane Brim Box, Rosalie Burns, Angus Duguid, Rolf Gerritsen, Bill Low, Glenis McBurnie, Meg Mooney, Bob Read and Melissa White.

He then acknowledged the sponsors of the Congress: Dept. Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, Australian Government; Dept. Water, Govt. of WA; National Water Commission; CSIRO, Water for a Healthy Country; Subterranean Ecology; Bennelongia, Environmental Consultants; Victorian Catchment Management Authority; SA Research and Development Institute; Sinclair Knight Mertz; eWater CRC; Marine and Freshwater Research Lab, Murdoch University; School of Biological Sciences, Monash University; PowerWater NT.

He explained that the main activity of the society this year has been the transition of control to ASN Events, based in Melbourne; this company now runs the every day affairs of the ASL, maintains the web page and organised the congress. ASN have a 2 year contract with the society. They have proved their worth already by raising $40,000 of sponsorship for this congress. This large change in the management of the society was greatly facilitated by Sabine Schreiber (Treasurer) who supervised the handover of the society's financial and banking arrangements to ASN.

The president then announced the names of those students who were given travel awards to attend the congress (see below). He acknowledged the three sponsors who provided funds specifically for this purpose: Sinclair Knight Mertz, Marine and Freshwater Research Laboratory- Murdoch University and School of Biological Sciences-Monash University. (accepted; p = R.Marchant, s = S. Schreiber)
6. Secretary's report:

Four executive teleconferences were held during the year in Nov 08, Feb 09, May 09 and Aug 09. Minutes of these meetings have been published in the newsletter or are about to be sent to the editor.

Two clauses in the ASL constitution need to be changed and these were published in the newsletter and are reproduced here:
The first was foreshadowed at the last AGM, namely a rewording of section 12 (Annual Reports). Currently this reads:

"An annual report and financial statement shall be submitted to the Annual General Meeting and the financial statement shall be audited by a person appointed at the previous Annual General Meeting".

Our auditors have recommended that this sentence be changed to:

"An annual report and financial statement shall be submitted to the Annual General Meeting and the financial statement may be audited or reviewed by an appropriately qualified and independent accountant if the members so decide at the previous Annual general Meeting".

The second change required is to section 4 (Membership), part (a) (7) (i). Currently this reads:

"Any individual, company or organisation contributing the sum of $50.00 or more in any one year shall be eligible for admission as a Sustaining Member."

The executive recommended that this be deleted. Both changes were put to a vote and passed unanimously. (accepted; p = D.Baldwin, s = M.Brock)

7. Treasurer's report:
Currently the society has 348 financial members consisting of: 4 emeritus members, 23 life members, 201 ordinary members (1 year subscription), 33 ordinary members (3 year subscription), 23 ordinary members (10 year subscription), 62 student members and 2 honorary life members. The financial statement (see below) was presented to members and the treasurer (S.Schreiber) briefly summarised the main points. There were no questions from members about this statement. (accepted; p = R.Marchant, s = T.Doeg).

8. Auditor's report:
This was read to the members by the Treasurer. (accepted; p = S.Schreiber, s = R.Marchant).

9. Newsletter Editor's report:
R.Thompson reported that ASN now distributes the email and hard copies of the newsletter. He thanked the many contributors to the newsletter and encouraged members to keep sending him material.

10. ASL Medal committee report:
D.Baldwin announced that the 2010 winner of the medal was Dr Terry Hillman. He read the following citation:

Terry Hillman has had a long and distinguished career in the field of limnology, spanning over forty years. In that time he has made a substantial contribution to the understanding and management of Australian freshwater ecosystems. He has played an important role in Australian limnology. He has held the roles of the Officer in Charge of the Peter Till Environmental laboratory (1974-1986), Officer in Charge and Deputy-Director of The Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre (1986-1993), Director of The Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre (1993-2001), Project Leader in CSIRO Land and Water (1993-2000) and Deputy-Director CRC for Freshwater Ecology (1993-2001). His contributions to Australian limnology have already been recognised by conferral of a Doctorate of Science (*Honorus causa*) by LaTrobe University, appointment as Professor Emeritus at La Trobe University and life membership of the Murray-Darling Association.

Over his career he has:

- Produced nearly 90 scientific publication including 5 book chapters;
- Co-supervised 9 PhD, 2 masters and 28 honours students;
- Examined 17 PhD, 6 masters and 37 honours theses;
- Been a member on the National Executive of the Murray Darling Association;
- Been on the Executive of Australian Society for Limnology (President 1987-1988);
- Been a member of the Research Advisory Committee of the Johnstone Centre - Charles Sturt University;
- President of the Regional Advisory Board, La Trobe University;
- Member of La Trobe University Council.

However, his greatest contribution to Australian limnology, has been his ability to transfer ecological knowledge into management outcomes. This has been achieved through the preparation of consultancy reports and publications, but most importantly through his participation on natural resource management and inter-governmental technical panels – many through Ministerial appointment. Through his efforts Terry has changed the way Natural Resource Managers view the aquatic environment which has led to significant changes in how rivers in the Murray-Darling Basin are run.

11. Early career Excellence Award:
D.Baldwin announced that this year's winner was Dr Nick Bond. He read the following citation:

First, we record that this year's committee was composed of three past winners of the award (Dr Fran Sheldon, Dr Darren Ryder and Dr Chris Walsh), and was chaired by the ASL President (Dr Darren Baldwin).

The ASL Early Career Excellence Award Subcommittee was unanimous in agreeing that this year's winner's early career exemplifies professional limnological excellence with substantial and tangible contributions to published research in stream and restoration ecology, peer recognition and excellence in communication and education in limnology.

Dr Nick Bond gained his honours degree and his PhD from the University of Melbourne under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Barbara Downes. His honours thesis investigated disturbance and his PhD, completed in 2000, investigated the effects of fine sediment transport on benthic invertebrate assemblages in upland streams.

Since completing his PhD, Nick has continued his research career at Monash University, where he has built an international reputation for his ecological research, particularly in the fields of stream restoration and the effects of drought on stream ecosystems. He quickly became a driving force in a CRC for Freshwater Ecology project on the attempted restoration of fish and invertebrates in sand-slugged streams. Overcoming the substantial hurdle of the full experimental restoration being rendered impossible by our current unprecendented megadrought/change in climate, Nick successfully published several high-impact papers on stream restoration and its interactions with drought.

Nick is now program leader and project leader in the e-Water CRC and a senior research fellow at Monash, involved in projects on the effects of drought and environmental flows on stream biota, especially fish and macroinvertebrates. His current work spans topics such as the assessment of dispersal by stream fauna, the identification of drought refugia, the effects of restoration using environmental flows and the modeling of populations subjected to enduring drought. He is well-known for his excellent skills in many areas of quantitative analysis.

Nick is a productive ecologist of increasing stature. In 9 years at Monash, he has written and co-authored 20 published papers, 3 book chapters and 3 refereed conference papers. Not only does he write well, but he is a fluent and stimulating presenter of seminars and lectures. He has very successfully supervised 10 honours students, and is currently supervising 3 doctorate students.

Based on these achievements in research, communication and education in limnology, the subcommittee recommends that this year's ASL Early Career Excellence Award is awarded to Dr Nick Bond. Nick is invited to give a paper at next year's conference and to join the Award subcommittee for next year.

12. Bill Williams' Travel Award:
R.Marchant reported that at this stage the amount of interest that had accrued to this travel fund over the last year was not clear. He hoped this would be clarified soon and a decision made as to whether enough was available to sponsor a student to attend an international meeting in 2009-2010.

13. Student travel awards:
As noted above 15 students received grants to attend the congress in Alice Springs. They were: Janice Williams, Ashley Macqueen, Brett Downey, Dae Heui Kim, Dave Galeotti, Jeremy Groves, Evan Harrison, Samantha Imberger, Katherine Cheshire, Joanne O'Connor, Susie Ho, Dominic Skinner, Belinda Young, Abigail Goodman and Peter Berney.

14. Student prizes:
These were announced at the congress dinner by Darren Baldwin and Darren Ryder:

a) An oral presentation by Bruce Murray, a third year student, was highly commended. Very few presentations are given at congresses by undergraduates (other than Honours students) and the judges wished to acknowledge his contribution.
b) The poster prize was awarded to Joanne O'Connor.
c) The prize for best talk by an Honours student was awarded to Stephanie Suter. Sam Walker was highly commended for her talk.
d) The prize for best talk by a PhD student was awarded to Janice Williams. Katherine Cheshire was highly commended for her presentation and Susie Ho, Dae Huei Kim, Evan Harrison and Peter Berney received special mentions for their talks.
e) Marine and Freshwater Research Prize (presented by Andrew Boulton, editor of MFR) was awarded to Jane Catford for her talk.

15. 49th Congress:
Jane Roberts, who suggested a congress in the Snowy Mountains last year, reported that a venue was available at Thredbo NSW which could hold 250 people. The congress would have to be held in late November or early December in order to make use of this venue. Dates have not been set but will be announced in the newsletter once known.

16. Future congresses:
In 2011 the ASL is due to hold a joint congress in Australia with the New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society. At present it is planned to hold this in Brisbane, possibly immediately after the International River Conference, in September. Fran Sheldon has formed a local committee.

17. Election of the executive:
Regional members for the ACT and SA have stepped down and the following members were elected in their place:
ACT – E.Harrison (p = M.Reid, s = M.Brock)
SA – K.Aldridge (p = B.Zampatti, s = M.Reid)

An indigenous representative was also elected: M.Starkey (p = J.Davis, s = J.Brim Box).

18. Election of the auditor:
S.Schreiber proposed (s = R.Marchant) that Coster Galgut be re-appointed as auditor for 2009-2010. This was carried.

19. General Business:

a) The indigenous participants in the congress thanked the ASL for assistance to attend this meeting.
b) Sam Capon representing the Freshwater Biodiversity and Climate Change section of NCCARF (National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility) announced that workshops and a conference would be held within the next

year detailing progress. Stuart Bunn who was due to explain this initiative in some detail at the congress was unfortunately called away before he had the opportunity to do this.
c) Andrew Boulton (editor MFR) suggested that the society consider holding a joint conference with the Australian Marine Science Association, possibly in the next 3-5 years. Some discussion on this matter took place and most members (by show of hands) were in favour of a meeting with some overlapping days rather than a fully combined meeting. This suggestion will at least be explored in principle.

Meeting closed at 12.30pm.

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR LIMNOLOGY INC

REG. NO. A20305K ABN 54 606 483 226

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES AS AT 30 JUNE 2009

	2009	2008
	$	$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Nat Aust Bank - Cheque A/c 03-508-9711	9,293	5,883
Nat Aust Bank - Cheque A/c 58-678-3072	369	369
Nat Aust Bank - Cash Maximiser 59-420-6427	57,377	96,496
Nat Aust Bank - National Term Deposit	71,522	68,151
Nat Aust Bank - Travel Award Term Deposit	44,613	46,958
Nat Aust Bank - A/C 5864162640081	80,971	-
Sundry Debtors	-	9
Prepaid Insurance	1,372	
Deposit - 2009 Conference Venue	8,700	1,000
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	$274,217	$218,866
TOTAL ASSETS	$274,217	$218,866
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Sundry Creditor	-	210
Membership Fees in Advance	2,010	4,010
Receipts in Advance - 2009 Conference	55,117	-
GST Payable	6,469	323
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITES	$63,596	$4,543
NET ASSETS	$210,620	$214,323
MEMBERS' FUNDS		
Retained Profits	$210,620	$214,323

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR LIMNOLOGY INC

REG. NO. A20309K ABN 54 606 483 226

INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

		2009		2008	
		$	$	$	$
INCOME					
Bank Interest	- B Williams Award Deposit	2,274		2,540	
	- General	7,485		11,535	
			9,759		14,075
Conference Receipts - 2008			73,470		-
Membership Subscriptions			19,339		11,203
Sundry Income			15		-
TOTAL INCOME			$102,583		$25,278
EXPENSES					
Audit & Accounting Fees			2,600		2,610
ASL Medal			3,523		2,432
Bank Charges			2,224		474
Conference:					
- Student Travel Award		3,500		9,050	
- Student Prize		1,100		2,800	
- Venue, Travel, etc		78,701		-	
			83,301		11,850
B Williams Travel Award			2,000		2,621
Depreciation			-		1,267
Honorarium - Treasurer			2,500		2,500
Insurance			2,238		-
Miscellaneous Expenses			45		756
Newsletter			1,042		931
Stationery, Telephone & Postage			834		987
Subscriptions & Meetings - FASTS			4,900		1,739
Website			1,080		2,400
TOTAL EXPENSES			$106,286		$30,567
PROFIT FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES			($3,703)		($5,289)
RETAINED PROFITS AT START OF YEAR			$214,323		$219,612
RETAINED PROFITS AT END OF YEAR			$210,620		$214,323

2009 Door Prize Report

Welcome to the 2009 Door Prize presentation. For those of you new to the society or the ASL conference, the Door Prize is presented to the most memorable thing that happens at the ASL conference for the year.

So, many years from now, most of you will not remember much about this years conference. Memories of the talks will fade. You may even forget that the old "science and policy" issue was raised again. Don't worry if you forget that, because it will be raised again ... and again ... and again, as it has every few years since I was an ASL member.

But there will always be one thing that will be forever associated with the ASL Conference – the winner of the Door Prize.

Who can forget the Line Dancers at Jenolan Caves ? Well, maybe those who came down with massive food poisoning at the conference may not have noticed. But for those of us still standing at that stage, the sight of a busload of cowboy-clad boot-scooting dancers descending out of the darkness to take over the annual dance ...

What else happened at that conference? Nothing any-one can remember. As with all conferences. But we will always remember the Door Prize winner. Now don't think that the Door Prize is just for the common also-ran ASL member. Among previous winners have been 2 ASL Medallists, and 12 of the past 16 winners have been nominated at some time (and some more than once). And 16.7% of the Early Career Award winners have won the Door Prize in their early career, even earlier than before they were Early Career winners. And all previous winners have been nominated at some stage.

Statisticians out there may say that this is mere correlation, but we know that there is a direct causal mechanistic link between a Door Prize nomination and future ASL glory. So forget about sweating for years in your career trying to get ASL recognition. You can become famous in the ASL community for as little as 5 minutes work – by winning the Door Prize.
And so to this years nominations:

Helping a lady replace her displace shoe would normally be seen as the gallant gesture of a gentleman. But when **Jane Roberts** lost a shoe during the pre-conference trip to Palm Valley, **PAUL WETTIN** stepped in to lend a hand .... well, two hands actually. As this is a family time slot, a detailed description is not possible, but the closest statistical descriptor would be the "Bayesian posterior distribution" as outlined by **Gerry Quinn**. I understand that there are photos.

To the CONFERENCE ORGANISERS, who's early communications suggested "neat, casual dress" as a requirement of delegates attending this year. Understandably, they are new at the ASL organising job, and they now probably realise that this is the type of society where **Andrew Boulton** once delivered the President's address wearing thongs, brown chords and a blue and white checked bogan shirt.

The dress code was changed in the Delegate's handbook to "wear what you wear to work", not realising that some of us work from home, and coming to ASL in work gear is an arrestable offence in all States of Australia.

A word for the DESERT PALMS RESORT. Yes, we are in the desert, and yes, you do have palms. But what dictionary you used to find a suitable definition of "resort" as a description of the accommodation and facilities escapes me. Seeing them flushing leaves off the driveway each morning also made me wonder if we were actually in the arid zone.

Speaking of language, our esteemed president **DARREN BALDWIN** excelled himself on the first morning, coining the new term "rectilictual". If you break the term into its component parts "recti-" and "-lictual" and consult a latin dictionary, the resulting word picture doesn't seem to match the context of relict arid zone wetlands.

And **BRIAN TIMMS** described **Stuart Bunn** and co-worker's early work on arid streams as "legendary". Again, a quick dictionary search identified this term as possibly meaning "mythical" – as in the legend of King Arthur. I'm fairly sure Stuart and his team were involved in some real work, and did, in reality, coin the term "bath tub ring". Now, If I was a major ecological process in arid streams, I'm not sure that I would be particularly pleased at being named after the result of a distinct lack of domestic hygiene.

And a mention for **JOAN POWLING**. Not just because she is a fellow resident at Port Fairy (my new home town), but for surviving a road trip from Perth to Alice Springs with **Brian Timms**.

While we might forget it, I'm sure that **JAYE LOBEGEIGER** won't ever forget the exploding microphone that went off during her talk in Room D. After setting an ASL standing high jump record, unfortunately Jaye recovered her composure too quickly for this nomination to proceed any further.

MARK LINTERMANS has already won the Apple prize and so has received his ASL recognition. A Door Prize would only lead to an inflated ego, so he has been disqualified. However, those at his talk would realise that it is possible to deliver a casual, informative and entertaining talk – even if the promise of the fish porn video failed to materialise.
A special nomination to **JENNY DAVIS**. Jenny has been trying to get ASL to Central Australia for many years now – for as long as I have known her. Her persistence, resistance and resilience is the main reason we are in this wonderful place this week. While there are others involved in the organisation

of this years conference, it is a tribute to the hard work of Jenny that we are here, and I would like to thank her for that.

ASL has always prided itself on being a place to encourage, attract and enthuse student members to limnology and to the Society. **GERRY QUINN** and **GARY JONES** have set this cause back by 10 years ± 2 years by suggesting that there should be more maths, more stats, more physics and more chemistry in undergraduate ecology courses.

But while they may have set us back by 10 years, knocking us back into the Pleistocene era has been **KEELY MILLS**. Her tale of a Ph.D. student getting stuck in the mud in Lake Colac was fine – but the "executive decision" by the sampling team to leave them stuck there while the rest of the team went off to complete the sampling, and the vague promise to pick them up on the way back will surely deter any more students from taking on further a limnological career, especially at Ballarat. Keely will never know just how close she came to getting this years prize.

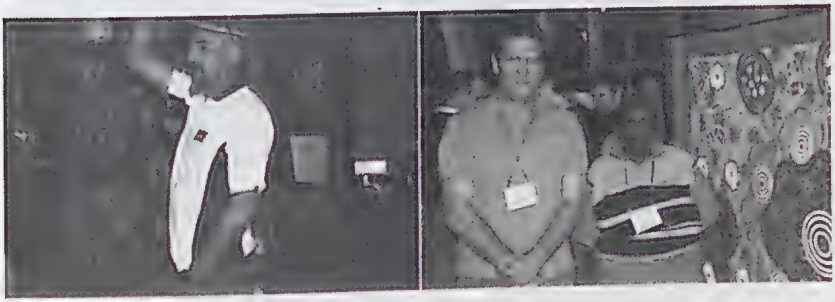
But, as usual, there can only be one winner, and this year, the Door Prize goes to an individual for performing duties far above the normal call of duty of ASL members at a conference. For epitomising what Margaret Brock called for limnologists to aspire to – daring to be different, and tackling novel changes with enthusiasm.

Becoming a good auctioneer is a life-long quest for many people. Developing the skill to sell snow to Eskimos requires a certain attitude and style that can only be honed over many years and sometimes decades of practice. But this years winner had only about 3 minutes to prepare when he was asked to lead the auction of the beautiful ASL painting at the BBQ on Tuesday night. But grasp the challenge he did.

For the exceptional job at conducting the auction, and also for being the only person to extract money willingly out of **Gary Jones** over the past seven years, I am pleased to announce that this years Door Prize is awarded to **ADAM KERESKY**.

Well done Adam, and if your limnological career ever stumbles, I'm sure there will be Real Estate agents out there .... and probably a lot of grifters and hustlers as well ... who will gladly employ your distinct and memorable talents.

Tim Doeg



MEMBERS MUSINGS

A Postcard from the Country

Camaraderie of the Open Road – Stop it!

Following this years ASL conference in Alice Springs, I took a drive to Uluru (the rock formerly known as Ayers) and Kings Canyon. A nice relaxing drive I thought. But about 5 minutes into the 4 hour drive, I was introduced once again to the dilemma of the open road. A car passed, going the other way. The driver waved at me. Just a raised finger off the steering wheel, but a distinct acknowledgement of my presence.

Wait! Is that some-one I know? Maybe an ASL delegate returning from a short trip out of Alice. Could have been some-one nominated for the Door Prize, just thanking me for the recognition. Or maybe an old friend who I haven't seen in years who, remarkably, recognised me in the fleeting instant that our eyes met (at 130 km/hr, it was indeed fleeting). I waved back – too late of course, because in the instant it took to react, they were several light years down the road.

I felt rude – they wouldn't have seen my response, so may have thought I was snubbing them.

A few minutes later, another car towing a caravan passed. Another wave, this time 5 fingers raised off the edge of the steering wheel. Surely there couldn't be that many delegates off on short trips after the conference, or that many old friends who just happened to be passing on the Stuart Highway at that particular instant in time. I waved back, but too late again.

No, I didn't know them. I was pretty sure. As far as I know, none of my friends drive caravans.

A rental campervan this time. Just in case, I got in early – as they approached, I raised a single friendly finger. Nothing in response. I felt let down. Just who were these horrible people who simply ignored my presence on the lonely open road, and trucked off towards Alice oblivious of my kind gesture. Must be bloody tourists in their fancy rental van – doing Australia on the cheap – probably camping by the side of the road, despoiling the environment and depriving hard working "resort" owners of a nights accommodation payment.

Well, to hell with them – I won't wave at rental campervans in the future.

This is just one of the traumas facing the open road traveller. Not only rogue kangaroos jumping from the bush and trying to ruin the excess on the rental car insurance (given the number of dead kangaroos on the side of the road, I wish I'd taken that lower excess extra insurance). Not only hours driving into the blinding sun. Not only the thought of flat tyres and contemplating how long you would survive on the 500 ml bottle of flavoured milk you bought at the last rest stop. Now there is another dilemma.

Do you wave, or don't you?

When you see a car approaching You end up staring at the driver – will they wave or not? Should I get in first and give a little wave – but what if they don't wave back? And what is the etiquette of highway waving? Is a single raised finger really just an acknowledgement of your presence in the world, or is it a meaningful gesture of pleasure in seeing another human in the vast wilderness? It can't be the latter because the Stuart Highway is like a freeway at peak hour – a constant stream of buses, caravans and rental campervans (damn tourists!).

And does the five finger wave mean more than the one finger?

Thinking strategically, I try a few options – 1. Wave at every-one and you feel let down if they don't respond. 2. Ignore every-one and you feel rude when they wave. 3. Close your eyes as another vehicle approaches so you don't need to decide – nope, not a good idea at 130 km/hr.

I give up. Please, limnologists travel long distances in their work. We have enough things to worry about without the added trauma of the open road wave-or-not-wave dilemma. Let's make it simple. I don't know you – you don't know me – we will never meet – I don't really care where you are going and you don't care where I've been – so let's just stop this silly stuff. I propose introducing a no-wave policy on the open road, and maybe we can all get to our destination safely. Not counting those kangaroos, of course.

T****** Update

So, after all that effort to get connected on-line (described previously), the internet works fine. All is looking good. I relax.

The first bill arrives (December). It's wrong! The cowdoeg1 account has not been cancelled and we are being charged for two internet accounts! Ring T****** (10). "Oh, I see the problem, we'll sort that out on the next bill". So I pay what we actually owe them and ignore the overcharging amount.

Next month (January), the second bill arrives. It's wrong! Still being charged for the uncancelled account and now have an overdue amount from the previous month. Ring T****** (11). "Oh, don't worry, we'll sort that out on the next bill". So I pay what we owe them and ignore the overcharging and overdue amount.

Then it gets weird. About three weeks later, I get a phone call from Telstra. "We have just issued your next bill, and we have rung you to tell you that it is wrong." Getting in early! "You will see that we have charged you a disconnection fee for cancelling the cowdoeg1 internet account. Don't worry, we'll sort that out on the next bill".

The bill arrives (February). Good, there is a credit for the amount previously billed on the cancelled cowdoeg1 account, and, as promised, an account cancellation fee. Ignore everything and just pay what we actually owe them – after all, it will be sorted out.

A week later, I get an SMS from T****** confirming that the disconnection fee will be credited to the account in the next bill.

The March bill arrives. The cowdoeg1 internet account has finally gone, but there's an overdue amount (the cancellation fee). Ignore everything and just pay what we actually owe them.

April. Nope, the overdue amount is still there, AND a late payment charge. Ring T******* (12). Guess what. "We'll sort that out on the next bill".

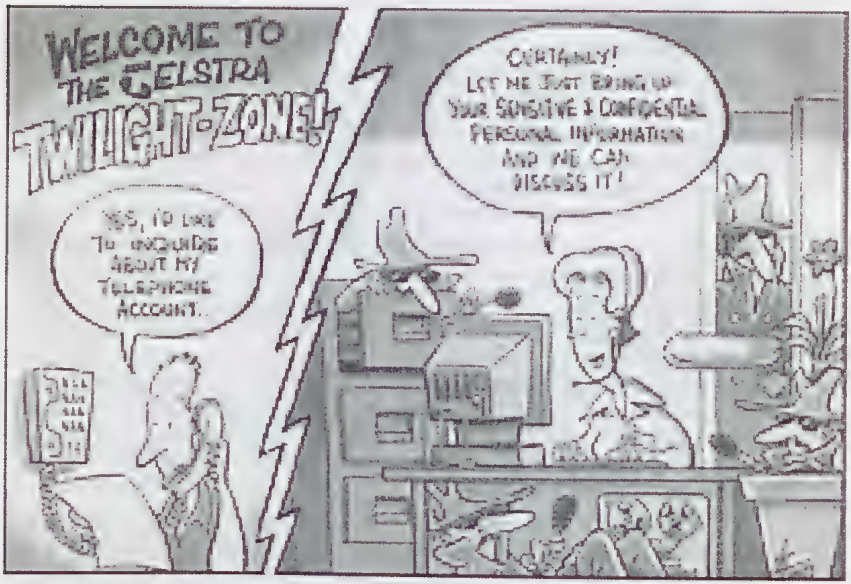
May. Do I need to tell you. Plus another late payment charge.

June. The overdue amount is increasing all the time. Plus yet another late payment charge. Ring T******* (13). On the end of the line, I hear three staff discussing it all, and finally get it sorted.

July. Hooray. The credit for the disconnection fee plus credit for two lots of late payment fees is finally there. And another late payment charge for not paying what I didn't owe them.

You win! Pay the late charge (it's cheaper than the psychiatric bill if I have to make one more phone call). Finally, the August bill arrives and is ..... correct! Only nine months to get the billing sorted out. The September bill is due any day now. I continue to live in dread.

Tim Doeg


WELCOME TO THE TELSTRA TWILIGHT-ZONE!
YES, I'D LIKE TO ENQUIRE ABOUT MY TELEPHONE ACCOUNT.
CERTAINLY! LET ME JUST BRING UP YOUR SENSITIVE & CONFIDENTIAL PERSONAL INFORMATION AND WE CAN DISCUSS IT!

INTERNATIONAL WATER CENTRE LAUNCH

Heart of sustainability: healthy rivers and aquatic ecosystems

"Healthy rivers and aquatic ecosystems are at the very heart of sustainability of our societies and economies," says Wouter Lincklaen Arriens of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Food, health, livelihoods, tourism, etc, all depend upon sustainable access to clean water.

Mr Lincklaen Arriens, Lead Professional for Water Resources Management at the ADB and Vice-Secretary General of the Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO) Secretariat, was speaking at the launch of the International WaterCentre's (IWC) Knowledge Hub for Healthy Rivers and Aquatic Ecosystems, part of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum's network of regional water knowledge hubs.

More than 100 people from 14 countries participated in the launch. "We see that IWC in Brisbane is already serving as the Asia-Pacific's portal to water resources expertise in Australia," Mr Arriens said.

The IWC is working with its 15 knowledge hub partners to disseminate Australia's best practice and expertise on the management and protection of healthy rivers and the aquatic ecosystems that depend on them, while also learning from the great body of knowledge and expertise already existing in the Asia-Pacific region.

"Where there is crisis there are opportunities, and here we talk about opportunities for collaboration in new and expanded ways," Mr Arriens said. "South East Queensland is a good example of how a Government-Corporate-Society partnership for water delivers results by involving state, city and local governments, catchment organisations, private sector, civil society and other knowledge partners, especially the universities."

On the 'ground level', the IWC will work with river basin organisations in the Asia-Pacific region to devise solutions in water management tailored to local needs and challenges.

"Our strength is in collaboration," says IWC CEO Mark Pascoe. "The IWC and its Knowledge Hub partner organisations are all experts in various fields of water management. By combining our strengths and working with local experts in the region we can be more effective in building up a critical mass of capacity to address these water management challenges."

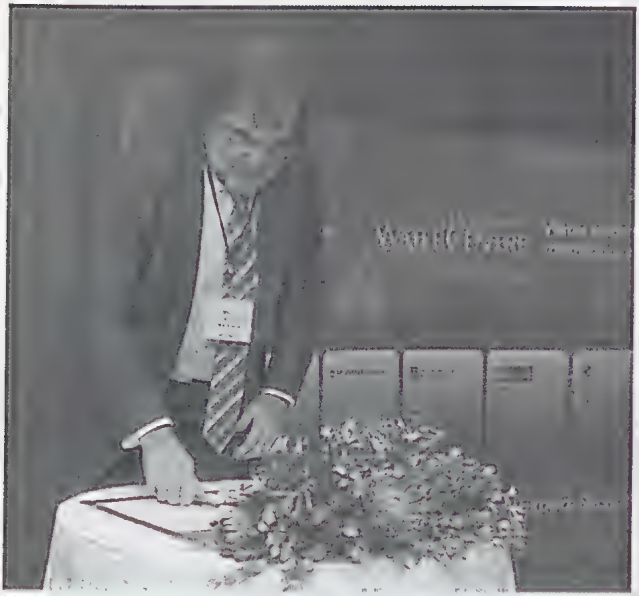
The International WaterCentre is dedicated to providing the most advanced education and training, applied research and consulting to develop capacity and promote whole-of-water cycle approaches to integrated water management around the world.

More information:
www.watercentre.org
Agnese Middleton,
International WaterCentre
phone 07 3123 7766 ext 105
email a.middleton@watercentre.org

More info: http://www.watercentre.org/resources/knowledge-hub

Mr Lincklaen Arriens, Lead Professional for Water Resources Management at the ADB and Vice-Secretary General of the Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO) Secretariat during the launch of Knowledge Hub for Healthy Rivers and Aquatic Ecosystems ceremony.

15 partner organisations signed the MOU, committing to disseminate Australia's best practice and expertise on the management and protection of healthy rivers and the aquatic ecosystems (names and organisations: http://www.watercentre.org/resources/knowledge-hub/launch)



Mark Pascoe, CEO of the International WaterCentre signing the MOU: Knowledge Hub for Healthy Rivers and Aquatic Ecosystems.

Professor Stuart Bunn during the MOU signing ceremony.

REPORTS FROM THE TRENCHES

MONASH FRESHWATER ECOLOGY RESEARCH GROUP

It has been a time of comings and goings, with the departure of two of our stalwarts and the arrival of some new folks as well. **Paul Reich** has departed Monash for a senior scientist role at the Arthur Rylah Institute, where he will take charge of research on estuarine systems. Paul has contributed hugely to the group over the last seven years, and will be much missed. **Rob Hale** has replaced Paul as the research fellow in charge of the Riparian Restoration Experiment. We have also lost **Damien Burrows**, who is moving to a position at the Environmental Protection Agency. **Jill Lancaster** has arrived to take up a lectureship, moving from the University of Edinburgh. **Jim Thomson** and **Shaun Cunningham** have started serious work on **Ross Thompson's** Carbon Project, looking at the effects of landuse change on aquatic biodiversity and water yields.

Amongst the PhD cohort, **Amber Clarke** is in the final throes of writing and expects to finish early next year. Ross' Thompson's students **Samantha Imberger** (with **Mike Grace**), **Susie Ho** (with **Nick Bond**) and **Mardiana Ali** (with **Mike Grace**) are in the midst of their final field seasons. **Darren Giling** will join their ranks in early 2010, working on the Carbon Project. Co-supervised by Ralph Mac Nally, Darren will work on carbon dynamics and biodiversity consequences of riparian revegetation.

Teresa McIntosh (a visitor from Kings College London) has finished her work on nutrient co-limitation in urban streams (working with Ross and **Chris Walsh**) and has returned to Britain. **Dan Magoulick** (University of Arkansas) in contrast is mid-stream with his sabbatical research in the lab, looking at litter quality and freshwater crayfish. Honours students **Tara D'Arcy** (wetland biodiversity with **Jenny Davis** and **Nick Bond**), **Kate Stevenson** (urban ecotoxicology with Ross), **Mel Klamt** (platypus trophic ecology with Ross and Jenny) and **Jennie Hellyer** (wetland plants and environmental flows with Ross, **Elisa Rawlings** and **Kay Morris**) have all finished up. **Adrian Dusting** has started his project on leaf litter quality with Ross and Paul Reich.

Ross, Jenny, Nick and Mike are excited to be part of a new CSIRO Flagship Cluster with Griffith University, and look forward to these initiatives kicking off in the New Year.

Have a great Xmas!!

Ross Thompson

eWATER CRC

Catchment Detox video challenge

You probably know the online game Catchment Detox, at www.catchmentdetox.net.au, about catchment management.

During winter/spring 2009, eWater advertised a competition for schools which culminated in the winner, Illaroo Road Public School in North Nowra, NSW, being announced at the MDBA International River Health Conference during Water Week. This eWater competition involved schools playing the game in class and submitting a five minute video about what they learnt. The class won $1000 for the school, and the school and each student from the winning team were presented with certificates.

Catchment Detox puts users in charge of a water catchment area to decide what activities are undertaken; whether to plant crops, log forests, build factories or set up national parks. The aim is to fix environmental problems as well as provide food for the population. It was developed by **Nick Marsh**, **Sylvain Arene** and **Tory Grice**, and others from eWater CRC, CSIRO, the ABC, and Moon Communications.

LeAnn Hanson, teacher of the winning 6H Class at Illaroo Road Public School said 'Catchment Detox has provided a launch pad for an enormous amount of learning. The game has provided the motivation to get my students out of the classroom for some real hands-on experience and to become better informed about the catchment in their own backyard'.

Catchment Detox itself won 'Best Science, Health or Environment' category at the 15th AIMIA Awards for interactive software in March 2009.

MUSIC v4 released

The well-known 'Model for Urban Stormwater Improvement Conceptualisation' (MUSIC) has just been significantly upgraded and released as version 4. It was formally launched at an event in Melbourne in November and a similar event is arranged for mid-December in Brisbane.

As users of MUSIC know, the model helps you evaluate conceptual designs of stormwater management systems to meet water quality objectives, especially related to water sensitive urban design. In relation to stream condition, for example, scientists and the water industry use MUSIC to assess land development proposals, to design stormwater treatment strategies for new and existing drainage schemes, for urban catchment planning, and to

design new stormwater treatment measures. And MUSIC can be applied to non-urban areas also.

music v4 (see www.ewater.com.au/music) adds more accurate modelling of bioretention and infiltration systems and capacity to model parameters in addition to total suspended solids, total phosphorus and total nitrogen.

eWater's MUSIC development team, **Ana Deletic**, **Tony Wong**, **Tim Fletcher**, **Hugh Duncan**, **Tony Weber**, **Belinda Hatt**, **Dale Browne**, **Edoardo Daly**, **Anna Lintern** and others, has built the new version in response to user feedback as well as to include major advances to the underlying science. This includes greater ability to model new stormwater technologies like reuse. MUSIC is designed to help water professionals visualise possible treatment strategies to tackle stormwater hydrology and pollution impacts.

Water supply interacting with ecosystems in ACT

During 2008-10, eWater teams are exploring how well our new software works with real on-ground issues in water management. There are currently 8 trials in areas known as 'focus catchments', in Queensland (2), NSW (1), Victoria (3), South Australia (1) and ACT (1) (see http://www.ewatercrc.com.au/research/productapp/index.html).

The ACT Focus Catchment group, led and coordinated by **Sue Nichols**, hosted a one and a half day tour of key sites in and around Canberra in late November. The tour highlighted aspects of ACT's water distribution and supply network.

The group is trialling an Integrated Urban Water Management (IUWM) approach as 'proof of concept' for sustainable water supply management. The IUWM application involves elements of ACT's water distribution network at selected case-study locations and is investigating optimal use of both centralised (reservoirs) and decentralised water sources (storm water reuse and wastewater recycling), while protecting and enhancing river ecosystem health and minimising the urban ecological footprint.

The tour included group members from Canberra (**Heath Chester**, **Jennie Gilles**, **Ralph Ogden**, **Richard Norris**, **Arifur Rahman**, **Sue Nichols**, **Fiona Dyer**, **Chris Hepplewhite**, **Darryl Lindner**), Newcastle (**George Kuczera**, **Lijie Cui**, **Andrew Graddon**, **Mohammad Mortazavi**), Melbourne (**Grace Hamilton**, **Andrew Grant**), Sydney (**Jane Blackmore**, **Tim Baynes**), Adelaide (**Jakin Ravalico**), and Toowoomba (**David Waters**).

The group visited case-study sites and the areas being modelled for the application and trial of eWater models, and gained a shared understanding of regional water resource issues, which the models may eventual help to manage. Team members pooled their knowledge of water security issues associated with ACT's water supply dams and inter-basin water transfers,

stormwater reuse and wastewater recycling, water treatment and the associated ecological footprint on river ecosystems.

eWater joins new Knowledge Hub

On November 4-5, **Gary Jones** attended the launch of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum – Knowledge Hub for Healthy Rivers and Aquatic Ecosystems. eWater is expected to become a 'partner' in the hub. The hub is being managed and led by the International Water Centre (IWC) in Brisbane.

The IWC-Australian Knowledge Hub has been established to help build the capacity of the water sector specifically in the field of creating healthy rivers and aquatic ecosystems. This will be achieved through:
1. Knowledge generation (research and application);
2. Knowledge sharing (lessons learned);
3. Capacity development (training), connecting people to the best knowledge and capacity development services in the specified knowledge domain.

Created in 2006, the Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF) is an independent, not-for-profit, nonpartisan, and non-political network dedicated to improving sustainable water management by championing best practices, boosting investments, building capacity and enhancing cooperation through the Asia Pacific region. The role of the APWF Knowledge Hubs (see www.apwf-knowledgehubs.net) is to deliver state-of-the art, knowledge-based products and services that meet the practical needs of water organisations like utilities, river basin organisations, ministries and planning agencies. Knowledge hubs aim to improve the water sector's performance by promoting effective solutions and developing local capacity in organisations around the region.

WATER PLANNING ECOLOGY UNIT, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE SCIENCES. LONG POCKET LABORATORIES, INDOOROOPILLY, QUEENSLAND.

Queensland Government

Much has happened with the Aquatic Ecosystems Unit since our last edition to the newsletter. As you can see another Department name change to DERM with the combining of the previous Departments of EPA and NRW and also a unit name change.

Bill Senior, Dean Holloway, Sarah Rogers, Catherine Simpson and several other DERM staff braved the oppressive heat (>45 degrees), remoteness and freeze dried meals to complete the final round of fieldwork for Qld FARWH trials which was undertaken in Cooper Creek. They now have lab processing, data analysis and write-up to complete the project in mid 2010.

A multitude of DERM staff have recently completed a large stint of fieldwork for Stream and Estuary Assessment Program (SEAP) and a couple of

associated projects. This involved surveying and sampling macroinvertebrates, riparian vegetation, selected fish species, macrophytes and stream-side pig rooting in the Wet Tropics from the Normanby River in the North to the Black River near Townsville. The usual fieldtrip issues presented themselves: flat tyres, large potholes, washouts, snakes, spiders, crocodiles and roadworks as well as a couple of surprises like swine flu. **Jo Blessing**, **Sara Clifford, Farah Zavahir** and **Pete Negus** are now finished recovery holidays and busily processing the samples in the lab. **Ryan Woods** is processing some of the *Mogurnda* sp. samples for genetic analysis as well as being a glutton for more fieldwork in Cooper Creek and the Moonie River – must be trying to find a freeze dried version of "Reef and Beef" compared to those he enjoyed so much in the North.

Jon Marshall and **Ryan Woods** along with Griffith University staff are currently out in the Moonie River stream profiling for the waterhole projects.

Have a good Christmas break!

Pete Negus

AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR TROPICAL FRESHWATER RESEARCH, JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY, TOWNSVILLE

Eric Wolanksi was invited to present at the Land Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone (LOICZ) workshop on Global Environmental Change in the Coastal Zone in Norway in June and the LOICZ workshop on Deltas: Vulnerability and Coastal Management, in India in December. **Damien Burrows** presented on tropical floodplain management at the Delta Research and Global Observation Network (DRAGON) Asia Summit in Cambodia in June.

We have been sampling for pesticides in coastal and offshore waters for the last 4 years along the heavily developed coast from Rockhampton to Tully, highlighting the occurrence of these chemicals. **Steve Lewis** and colleagues published a paper in Environmental Pollution on 'Herbicides - A New Threat to the Great Barrier Reef', that has generated much interest (and controversy) in the region, resulting in over 70 media articles that we know of. Further work is planned for 2010, building upon regional risk assessments for pesticides in coastal waters.

Zoe Bainbridge wrapped up a 5-year program using volunteer landholders (mostly graziers) to collect floodwater samples from throughout the Burdekin catchment. This has built up a picture of which parts of the catchment are contributing most to runoff to the Great Barrier Reef and how the sediment and nutrient types and sources vary across the catchment. This program links in to a 5-year program sampling the chemistry and dispersion patterns of riverine flood plumes across the Great Barrier Reef.

Recent freshwater fish field work has found new range extensions for the three-spot gourami (*Trichogaster trichopterus*) an exotic species first found in the Burdekin delta (south of Townsville) in 1998. This species has an accessory breathing organ and can survive very poor water quality, including emersion for extended periods. It moves across floodplains during the wet season and its range now covers the Burdekin River, most of Barratta Creek, Haughton River (new extension) and Ross River (Townsville).

In October 2008, we assisted the state fisheries in a project to rotenone 5km of a creek in the Mitchell catchment to eradicate a tilapia infestation there. This was critically important as this was the first infestation recorded in a Gulf of Carpentaria catchment and failure to control the species here would result in their spread through much of the Gulf region. Two species of tilapia were collected during the rotenone exercise. With regular monitoring by ourselves and Queensland Fisheries throughout the last 12 months, we have not detected any tilapia and the native fish community is back to pre-treatment composition (within the normal bounds of the high inter-annual variability that we get in these sorts of systems).

We have concluded the final fieldwork for a project on the effect of feral pigs on wetlands in Lakefield National Park, Cape York. The effects of pigs are devastating (much more so than cattle), with all of the mud in the shallow wetlands dug up and relatively little plant material remaining. Fencing of selected wetlands provides a visually dramatic comparison with unfenced wetlands and shows how quickly, despite decades of pig damage, aquatic plants return to these wetlands after the wet season.

This year we have undertaken several studies on freshwater turtles. These projects examine how increased water resource developments and river regulation affects freshwater turtles. We have an experimental apparatus for testing the diving times of freshwater turtles in response to altered temperature, dissolved oxygen and turbidity, putting a number of turtles through their 'paces' (relatively speaking). Several key species in Queensland catchments affected by weir and dam development have minimal energy requirements and are essentially benthic species. Any forced increases in surfacing frequency could have a significant effect upon them. We have also had an array of acoustic receivers deployed in the Broken River all year to monitor movements of Irwin's turtle (named after Steve's father). Movements are usually quite limited but with the occasional movement of several to many kilometers. These studies will continue in 2010.

Damien Burrows

ASL Newsletter
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